

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of editing program code on a data processing system, the program code being suitable for subsequent processing, wherein the method includes the steps of:

defining at least one portion of the program code,  
selecting at least one defined portion, and  
automatically disabling the at least one selected portion,  
the at least one disabled portion being excluded from the subsequent processing.

2. The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

selecting at least one previously disabled portion, and  
automatically re-enabling the at least one selected previously disabled portion.

3. The method according to claim 2, further including the step of:

assigning each defined portion to a category of a set including at least one category, the step of selecting the at least one defined portion and the step of selecting the at least one previously disabled portion including selecting at least one category.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the set includes at least one category for service instructions.

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the program code includes a plurality of instructions, the step of automatically disabling the at least one selected portion including converting each corresponding instruction into a comment, and the step of automatically re-enabling the at least one selected previously disabled portion including restoring each corresponding instruction.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of defining the at least one portion includes:

enclosing each portion between a starting comment and an ending comment.

7. The method according to claim 2, further including the steps of:

condensing each disabled portion by at least partially hiding a corresponding visual representation, and

restoring the visual representation of each re-enabled portion.

8. The method according to claim 7, further including the steps of:

updating the program code by removing each condensed portion, and

storing the updated program code.

9. A computer program, directly loadable into a working memory of a data processing system, for performing a method of editing program code when the program is run on the data processing system, the program code being suitable for subsequent processing, wherein the method includes the steps of:

defining at least one portion of the program code,

selecting at least one defined portion, and

automatically disabling the at least one selected portion, the at least one disabled portion being excluded from the subsequent processing.

10. A program product comprising a computer readable medium on which a computer program is stored, the program being directly loadable into a working memory of a data processing system for performing a method of editing program code when the program is run on the data processing system, the program code being suitable for subsequent processing, wherein the method includes the steps of:

defining at least one portion of the program code,  
selecting at least one defined portion, and  
automatically disabling the at least one selected portion,  
the at least one disabled portion being excluded from the  
subsequent processing.

11. An editor for editing program code on a data processing system, the program code being suitable for subsequent processing, wherein the editor includes software instructions for defining at least one portion of the program code, software instructions for selecting at least one defined portion, and software instructions for automatically disabling the at least one selected portion, the at least one disabled portion being excluded from the subsequent processing.

12. A data processing system for editing program code, the program code being suitable for subsequent processing, wherein the system includes means for defining at least one portion of the program code, means for selecting at least one defined portion, and means for automatically disabling the at least one selected portion, the at least one disabled portion being excluded from the subsequent processing.

13. A data processing system for editing program code, the program code being suitable for subsequent processing, wherein the system includes a software module for defining at least one portion of the program code, an input device for selecting at least one defined portion, and a software module for automatically disabling the at least one selected portion, the at least one disabled portion being excluded from the subsequent processing.